



Woonsocket Police Department

242 Clinton Street • Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895-3276
401-766-1212 • Fax 401-766-8897 • Emergency 401-769-1111

WILLIAM J. SHEA
CHIEF OF POLICE

April 7, 2004

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

WT DOCKET # 02-55

Dear Secretary Dortch:

As you know, the nation's first responders have been struggling with interference for more than five years. This problem has affected more than half of the states across America, and it continues to spread to new communities every day. There has been around a thousand cases of interference reported over the years, that's a thousand opportunities that operations could have been hampered or lives could have been put in danger. It is only a matter of time, however, before tragedy strikes because of a communications hindrance.

Police chiefs across the country are dedicated to leading their departments, protecting their communities and ensuring the safety of their first responders. The issue of public safety radio interference continues to affect department's emergency operations and, until this problem is solved, first responders must struggle to identify interference problems and hope that communications systems operate reliably in times of crisis.

Seamless communications should not be a matter of luck and hope, though. There is a solution that will put an end to public safety's struggle with interference, and permanently solve the problem at its source. The Consensus Plan is the much-needed comprehensive solution for the public safety community that will rectify this dangerous problem.



Woonsocket Police Department

242 Clinton Street • Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895-3276
401-766-1212 • Fax 401-766-8897 • Emergency 401-769-1111

WILLIAM J. SHEA
CHIEF OF POLICE

Page 2
WT Docket #02-55

The Woonsocket Police Department joins the nearly 900 public safety and government agencies, officials and individuals who have filed in support of the Consensus Plan. The dangers that are posed by unreliable communications have plagued departments long enough. I appreciate your deliberation on this critical issue and I hope that you will join the public safety community in support of the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William J. Shea".

William J. Shea
Chief of Police
Woonsocket Police Department

lg